



HOWARD COUNTY 2000 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Howard County became Maryland's 21st county in 1851, but has been providing food and fiber for commercial markets for nearly 200 years. It is the second smallest county in the state having a total land area of 161,394 acres (251 square miles) of which approximately 25 percent is land in farms. The population of Howard County was 74,930.

Located in Central Maryland, about 90 percent of Howard County is in the Piedmont Plateau and 10 percent is in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Altitude ranges from 20 feet to 875 feet above sea level. The county is situated in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan corridor with a population of 247,842 in 2000.

A progressive county Farmland Preservation Program ensures agricultural opportunities in Howard County and provides ample green space for future generations.

Agricultural sales exceed \$100 million annually, ranking agriculture among the top five industries in the county. Important commodities include horticulture, dairy, livestock, corn, small grains, and hay. Tree fruits, small fruits and vegetables also add to the agricultural income. Pick-your-own operations, roadside stands and on-the-farm markets are valuable outlets for these commodities.

HOWARD AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1998	Bu.	6,400	86.5	553,600
	1999		5,000	80.4	401,800
	2000		6,300	127.0	800,000
Corn for Silage	1998	Tons.	*	*	*
	1999		2,200	11	24,200
	2000		600	18	10,800
Soybeans	1998	Bu.	4,200	30.5	128,000
	1999		3,200	23.4	74,800
	2000		3,800	42.1	160,000
Wheat	1998	Bu.	2,300	61.3	141,000
	1999		2,700	65.0	175,500
	2000		2,400	58.0	139,100
Hay	1998	Tons.	5,400	3.3	18,000
	1999		5,500	1.8	9,800
	2000		6,000	2.8	16,500
Barley	1998	Bu.	1,100	75.5	83,000
	1999		700	94.7	66,300
	2000		600	82.5	49,500

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 2000

Corn	19	Oats	3
Wheat	20	Barley	13
Hay	11	Soybeans	21

Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹

Cattle	10
Hogs	14
Sheep	13
Milk Cows	11 ⁵

HOWARD AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		432	382	318
Average Size (acres)		125	117	125
Land in Farms (acres)		54,041	44,623	39,846

Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	9,841	8,203	6,321
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	2,721	1,730	1,254
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	1,013	1,081	477

Average Number of Milk Cows		1998	1999	2000
		1,400	1,400	1,200

Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		1998	1999	2000
		25,000	26,000	24,000

Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997
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	----- Thousand Dollars -----			
All Products		18,305	18,949	19,610
Crops		9,068	12,294	12,086
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products		9,237	6,655	7,524

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
⁵ 2000.
* Acreage too small to publish .

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 2000

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	**	30.8	**	3.22
February	**	33.6	**	3.01
March	**	43.1	**	3.71
April	**	52.6	**	3.50
May	**	62.7	**	4.47
June	**	70.9	**	3.87
July	**	75.4	**	3.45
August	**	74.0	**	3.57
September	**	67.1	**	3.59
October	**	55.4	**	3.23
November	**	45.7	**	3.63
December	**	35.7	**	3.48

** Insufficient or partial data.

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
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